

Feth and Feth Thematic Nomination

NPS Form 10-900-b

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNATIONAL REGISTER
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National Register of Historic Places
Multiple Property Documentation Form

This form is used for documenting multiple property groups relating to one or several historic contexts. See instructions in *How to Complete the Multiple Property Documentation Form* (National Register Bulletin 16B). Complete each item by entering the requested information. For additional space, use continuation sheets (Form 10-900-a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.

XX New Submission _____ Amended Submission _____

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A. Name of Multiple Property Listing

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The Designs of Architects William Pratt Feth and Myron Kauffman Feth in Leavenworth, Kansas, ca. 1895-1942

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B. Associated Historic Contexts

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(Name each associated historic context, identifying theme, geographical area, and chronological period for each.)

(A) The Designs of William P. Feth, ca. 1895-1919

(B) The Designs of Feth and Feth, 1920-1930

(C) The Designs of Myron K. Feth, 1931-1942

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C. Form Prepared by

=====

name/title Dale E. Nimz, Ph.D.

street & number 1928 Countryside Lane telephone 785-842-8992

city or town Lawrence state KS zip code 66044

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D. Certification

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As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this documentation form meets the National Register documentation standards and sets forth requirements

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for the listing of related properties consistent with the National Register criteria. This submission meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60 and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Patricia Solman DSHPO
Signature and title of certifying official

12/12/07
Date

State or Federal Agency or Tribal government

I hereby certify that this multiple property documentation form has been approved by the National Register as a basis for evaluating related properties for listing in the National Register.

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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Table of Contents for Written Narrative

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Provide the following information on continuation sheets. Cite the letter and the title before each section of the narrative. Assign page numbers according to the instructions for continuation sheets in *How to Complete the Multiple Property Documentation Form* (National Register Bulletin 16B). Fill in page numbers for each section in the space below.

Page Numbers

E. Statement of Historic Contexts (If more than one historic context is documented, present them in sequential order.)

F. Associated Property Types (Provide description, significance, and registration requirements.)

G. Geographical Data

H. Summary of Identification and Evaluation Methods (Discuss the methods used in developing the multiple property listing.)

I. Major Bibliographical References (List major written works and primary location of additional documentation: State Historic Preservation Office, other State agency, Federal agency, local government, university, or other, specifying repository.)

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Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.). A federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 120 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the National Register of Historic Places, National Park Service, 1849 C St., NW, Washington, DC 20240.

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Section E. Statement of Historical Contexts

Introduction

The designs of architects William Pratt Feth and Myron Kauffman Feth are the subject of this multiple-property nomination. The designs of William and Myron Feth are significant according to criterion A for their association with patterns of architectural and urban history and criterion C as examples of significant property types and styles popular during particular periods of construction. Nominated properties are significant in the areas of architecture and community development and the period of significance dates from ca. 1895 to 1942. Over a period of more than forty-five years, the Feths designed many of the most important institutional, commercial, and residential buildings in Leavenworth. With these buildings, the Feths improved their community and strengthened Leavenworth's economic and social status in northeast Kansas.

Nominated properties are skillfully designed examples of architectural styles popular at the time of construction. The designs of William and Myron Feth are locally significant because their body of work documents the history of a general architectural practice in a particular Kansas town. Since this is the first thematic nomination of its type in Kansas, their body of work can not be compared with that of other architects in the state. However, it appears that the long-lasting influence of William and Myron Feth gave Leavenworth a distinctly sophisticated and refined architectural character.

The nominated properties are associated with the following historic contexts:

- (A) The Designs of William P. Feth, ca. 1895-1919
- (B) The Designs of Feth and Feth, 1920-1930
- (C) The Designs of Myron K. Feth, 1931-1942

Chronology

Feth and Feth designed more than sixty buildings in Leavenworth including such landmarks as the Leavenworth County Courthouse, Leavenworth City Hall, and the Leavenworth High School. W. P. Feth also designed buildings in Denver, Kansas City, Omaha, and Seattle. As a young man, W. P. Feth left his home in Leavenworth to study architecture and drafting at the Armour Mission in Chicago. Then he worked as a draftsman for Burnham and Root, the most prominent architectural firm in the city and one of the most influential firms in the United States during the late nineteenth century. With this training, W. P. Feth brought the most up-to-date styles and practices in American architecture to his hometown when he returned to Leavenworth in 1895.

Feth's training in the Chicago School of architecture and his practical design and planning skills won him numerous commissions as the town of Leavenworth entered a period of economic and social maturity. As

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indicated by his significant commissions and prominent role in building the community of Leavenworth, W. P. Feth was the most prominent and trusted local architect in Leavenworth during the period from about 1895 to 1930.

Myron Feth joined his father in the practice of architecture in 1920. He studied for at least one year 1916-1917 as a special student in the School of Architecture at the University of Pennsylvania. This training prepares him to design the Period Revival styles popular from the 1920s into the 1930s and possibly introduced him to the Modern movement in architecture that became influential in the late 1930s.

M. K. Feth assisted in designing the Leavenworth City Hall, the firm's most important project in the 1920s. After W. P. Feth retired in 1930, M. K. Feth continued the family tradition with his knowledge of contemporary architectural revival styles, practical design, and planning. M. K. Feth had a few important commissions such as the new Leavenworth High School and the Leavenworth County Jail, but opportunities to design new buildings declined because of the Great Depression. In 1942 Myron joined the Army for the second time (having served earlier in World War I) and worked on engineering and planning projects at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. After two years in the Army, he worked as a civilian employee until his retirement in 1963.

Because the men were committed to their roots in Leavenworth, the careers of W. P. and M. K. Feth also were determined by the economic and population changes in local history. By 1900 the population of Leavenworth had increased to 20,735, but declined slightly to 19,363 in 1910 and fell to a low of 16,912 in 1920. The population rebounded to 17,466 in 1930 and returned to 19,220 in 1940, but did not surpass 20,000 again until 1950. The changes in population reflected a local economy that had matured and began to decline even before the Great Depression of the 1930s. With less population and economic growth, there was less demand for new commercial and residential buildings and less work for the architects, Feth and Feth.

At a time when architects were still defining their profession, the Feths were relatively well educated and accomplished designers in northeast Kansas. Through their decades of practice, their high quality designs improved the community and set a standard of contemporary style and professional architecture in Leavenworth, Kansas. Throughout the period of significance, the Feths interpreted national trends in the design of local Leavenworth buildings. As necessary to sustain a general practice in architecture, the Feths designed in the popular styles of the time. Both of them worked in characteristic styles, but they adapted and their work evolved according to changes in popular taste.

Early in his career, W. P. Feth designed institutional, commercial, and residential buildings in Romanesque, Queen Anne, and Classical Revival styles. Since John Welborn Root, the principal designer for Burnham and Root, preferred the Romanesque and Queen Anne styles in the late 1880s when Feth worked as a draftsman, W. P. Feth probably developed a proficiency in these styles at that time. As other styles became popular

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in the early twentieth century, W. P. Feth also designed buildings in the Classical and Colonial Revival styles. Some examples of Feth's work were elaborately detailed and others were simpler. Especially in some of the finer residences, W. P. Feth combined details from different styles in exuberant eclectic designs.

After 1920, Feth and Feth continued to produce notable buildings in Classical Revival and Romanesque styles. In the late 1920s and early 1930s, M. K. Feth designed a few institutional and commercial buildings. The Leavenworth High School has Renaissance detailing, but M. K. Feth also designed utilitarian buildings such as the Leavenworth County Jail in a simple style influenced by the Modern movement. Most of M. K. Feth's later designs were residences in the Colonial Revival and Tudor Revival styles.

Builders of Leavenworth: Three Generations of the Feth Family in Leavenworth

In 1854 Kansas Territory was opened for settlement and the first city, Leavenworth, was founded. German emigrant Philip Feth came to Leavenworth that same year. Four years later, he married Catherine Heinbuck in Leavenworth on April 15, 1858. Philip Feth was a skilled stonemason who worked on the construction of the Leavenworth County Courthouse in 1873 and many other buildings. In addition to building foundations for many homes and business houses, Feth had several foundation and stone building contracts at Fort Leavenworth. As one newspaper account stated, "in his native Germany Feth had learned the trade of stonemason and in the mushrooming city of Leavenworth he found plenty of work for his capable hands. Some of the earliest foundations in the city were laid by him, many of them remaining to this day as testimony of his skill and honest workmanship."¹ Philip Feth died on August 23, 1885.

Philip and Catherine Feth's son, William Pratt Feth, was born in Leavenworth on April 24, 1867. He attended grade school and high school in the city and during summer vacations, began working for noted Kansas architect Erasmus T. Carr. W. P. Feth began his architectural training with one of the most influential architect/builders in the early history of Kansas. E. T. Carr (born in 1825 in Greenville, New York) was a bricklayer and mason who worked in Syracuse, New York as a builder. In 1855 he came to Fort Leavenworth in the new Kansas Territory and supervised various building projects at the military post. Then he opened an office in Leavenworth as an architect. By 1883 Carr was described as "among the most able and skillful architects of the West." E. T. Carr served as the state architect of Kansas from March 27, 1870, to May 1885.² During this period, he designed and supervised the construction of many of the most important buildings in eastern Kansas.

¹ "Who's Who in Leavenworth: William P. Feth," Leavenworth Times 12 July 1942, copy in Leavenworth County Historical Society vertical files.

² William G. Cutler, in A. T. Andreas, History of Kansas (Chicago, IL: A. T. Andreas, 1883), page 2 of 8 at <http://www.kancoll.org/books/cutler/leavenworth/leavenworth-co-p18.html> accessed 1/29/2007. Portrait and Biographical Record of Leavenworth, Douglas, and Franklin Counties (Chicago, IL: Chapman Publishing Company, 1899), 789.

Although their achievements were notable enough, in remembering their education and careers, both W. P. Feth and M. K. Feth embellished their personal stories. According to one article, W. P. Feth did not finish high school, but instead went to Chicago where he studied at the Armour Institute of Technology, graduating in 1887. In fact, the Armour Institute did not open until 1893, but its predecessor, the Armour Mission, began on the first Sunday in December, 1886 when five young men from a manual training school began to teach classes in wood carving, tile-making, freehand and mechanical drawing, and designing.³ Presumably, W. P. Feth improved his skills as a draftsman in such classes.

Chicago was exactly the right place for a talented young man with limited resources who wanted to become an architect. In the late nineteenth century, Chicago was a frontier city growing by hundreds of people every day. Accommodations for living and business were in great demand. Between 1885 and 1890, nearly forty new buildings of eight stories or more were designed and built in Chicago's central business district. Many more buildings of lesser height also were constructed. By 1890 the services of Chicago architects were in demand throughout the Midwest.

The need for experienced draftsmen to direct and supervise production of drawings and to address the technical problems of tall building design far exceeded the number of available graduates. Some draftsmen were produced by the city's trade schools, such as the Athenaeum and the Chicago Manual Training School, but these schools were unable to supply the manpower needed.⁴

Architecture was a rapidly evolving profession at this time. As Wilbert Hasbrouck described,

there were no real requirements of someone claiming the title of architect, no licensing, no law regulating what he could do or should do or what his responsibilities were to his clients and the public. There were a few men who had an education beyond secondary school, some of whom had training at the college level, but they were the exception to the rule at a time when 'architects' with the most rudimentary training, almost no understanding of basic engineering, and only the slightest knowledge of aesthetics were the norm ... other than architectural periodicals and the few books that were available, the average aspiring architect had nowhere to learn his trade.

Young draftsmen learned from older, more experienced draftsmen in established offices who had been trained in Europe or elsewhere and had a reasonable understanding of styles, classical proportions, and the mechanics of assembling a set of drawings.⁵

The problem for young men like William Pratt Feth was not only the cost and difficulty of finding a way to stop working and go to school for several years. The University of Illinois, then called Illinois

³ The Armour Institute later became the Illinois Institute of Technology in 1940, see "Armour Institute," by Walter Hendricks, <http://archives.iit.edu/history/armour/index.html> pp. 1-2.

⁴ Hasbrouck, The Chicago Architectural Club, 52.

⁵ Wilbert R. Hasbrouck, The Chicago Architectural Club: Prelude to the Modern (New York, NY: Monacelli Press, 2005), 8.

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Industrial University, was the only nearby school that trained architects. The first class was enrolled in the fall of 1870. In the late nineteenth century, only MIT, Cornell, Columbia, Syracuse, and Illinois offered architecture degrees. Fewer than a hundred degrees were granted in the United States in the spring of 1886, producing only a fraction of the number of trained people needed in architectural offices throughout the country.⁶

Buildings were being built in the hundreds in Chicago when James H. Carpenter, an English-born itinerant draftsman, brought eighteen colleagues together to form the Chicago Architectural Sketch Club (CASC) in the spring of 1885. At the time, there were approximately 125 architectural firms in Chicago and most of them had more than one draftsman on staff. Through the efforts of this club,

young draftsmen learned the history, styles, and functions of architecture to a degree that they were able to translate first their employers' and later their own clients' needs into buildings. This organization, more than any other individual, firm, or professional society, was responsible for the evolution and development of the Chicago School of architecture.⁷

During the period from 1885 to 1889, education was the primary concern of the club's officers. The CASC officers were highly successful in getting important architects, builders, and businessmen from Chicago to speak to the membership. Critical comments on recent architecture were offered regularly and the history of architecture was often the subject of lectures. Sometimes the members addressed their colleagues, usually on practical subjects such as the use of masonry design, terra-cotta, iron and steel, and interior decoration.

Although William Pratt Feth was not listed as a member of the Chicago Architectural Sketch Club, he could have attended meetings. After 1887, he worked for Burnham and Root, specializing in planning office buildings. During the period from 1885 to 1892, William P. Feth, draughtsman, was listed in the Chicago city directory only in 1890.

The partnership of Daniel Burnham and John Welborn Root began in 1873 and ended with Root's death in January, 1891. Then the firm became D. H. Burnham and Company. In the 1880s, the work of Burnham and Root became a paradigm of the development of the skyscraper--a building type inspired by the problems and opportunities of the growing city. As Thomas Hines concluded, Daniel Burnham was skillful in laying out a building, ground and floor plans. Then the partners decided on the best plan and John Welborn Root used that as the first element in designing the exterior. Under Burnham's direction, the large architectural office and efficient organization became a prototype for all great modern architectural firms.

Among the landmark Chicago buildings designed while W. P. Feth worked for Burnham and Root were the Masonic Temple, the Rand & McNally Building,

⁶ Hasbrouck, The Chicago Architectural Club, 50-51.

⁷ Hasbrouck, The Chicago Architectural Club, 9.

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and the Rookery. The Rookery (constructed 1885-1888) embodied the first modern office building plan. A transition building, the Midland Hotel in Kansas City (1886-1888), had a combination metal skeleton and wall-bearing construction. The ten-story Rand-McNally Building (1888-1890) was the first tall building in the world completely supported on an all-steel frame with an all terra cotta façade. The Masonic Temple (1890-92) was the first twenty-story building constructed in Chicago. Although W. P. Feth did not mention an association, the firm of Burnham and Root also designed the famous Monadnock Building (1889-1892) during this period.⁸

In 1891 W. P. Feth went to Denver where he worked as an associate of E. T. Carr to prepare the plans for the Dennis Sheedy mansion. The Sheedy residence was described in the May 1891 issue of The Western Architect and Building News. Dennis Sheedy was one of Denver's most successful business leaders. His management of the Denver Dry Goods department store and his positions in the city's banking and mining enterprises earned the substantial income to provide for the construction one of the finest residences in the city at the time. Dennis Sheedy's first wife, Katherine Vincentia Ryan, was the daughter of Matthew Ryan, a prominent and wealthy businessman of Leavenworth, Kansas. E. T. Carr's only daughter married Jepp Ryan, the son of Matthew Ryan. The family relationship probably explains Sheedy's choice of architect.⁹

Carr and Feth lived in Denver from 1891 to 1892 and shared an office in the Kittredge Building. In 1893 E. T. Carr moved to Miles City, Montana, where he practiced architecture and engaged in the hardware business with his son-in-law, Jepp Ryan. In 1899 Carr returned to Leavenworth to reside permanently.¹⁰

W. P. Feth remained in Denver in 1893 and 1894, probably to oversee the construction of the Sheedy mansion. Feth did return to Leavenworth to marry Miss Lillian Kauffman, daughter of George P. Kaufmann who operated a machine shop on Shawnee Street in downtown Leavenworth. The Feths' only son, Myron K. Feth, was born in Denver, Colorado on August 28, 1893.

W. P. Feth and his new family returned to Leavenworth in 1895 as the community entered a period of economic and social maturity. Because of his technical training and his work experience with Burnham and Root in Chicago, the young architect brought ideas from the main currents of late nineteenth century architecture to Leavenworth. At the time, community leaders were ready to build in styles that demonstrated their prestige and modern taste. As a reporter concluded, "William P. Feth has left an imprint on Leavenworth that will not be effaced for many generations yet to come. From his German-trained father he inherited the instinct of doing whatever he undertook in a workman-like manner."¹¹

The evidence for Feth's return to Leavenworth is based on his drawings for the Nathaniel H. Burt House dated 1895. Also, William P. Feth was

⁸ Thomas S. Hines, Burnham of Chicago: Architect and Planner (New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 1974), 22-24, 44.

⁹ "Sheedy Mansion, Denver County, Colorado," National Register of Historic Places nomination, 8-30.

¹⁰ Portrait and Biographical Record of Leavenworth, Douglas, and Franklin Counties (Chicago, IL: Chapman Publishing Company, 1899), 789.

¹¹ "Who's Who in Leavenworth: William P. Feth," 12 July 1942.

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listed as an architect in the 1899-1900 city directory. At the time, his office was located at 25 Manufacturers Bank Building and his residence was 809 S. 7th Street.

Although the Burt House is not as large and elaborately ornamented, the brick residence resembles the Sheedy Mansion in Denver. When he commissioned his new residence, Nathaniel Burt was the treasurer of the Great Western Stove Company, one of Leavenworth's most important and prosperous industrial manufacturing firms. In 1911, Burt became president of the company. After the Burt House, W. P. Feth designed a number of fine residences and several institutional and commercial buildings.

According to a 1942 article, W. P. Feth returned to Leavenworth in 1903 to plan the remodeling of the Planters Hotel. Possibly he left for extended periods to supervise work in other cities. According to Feth, "eighty thousand dollars was spent on remodeling and modernizing the hotel which consumed more than a year. There was a grand opening when the job was completed with a grand ball. The barroom at the southeast corner of the building probably was the finest in this section. The Planters hotel of that day was something never surpassed in Leavenworth and probably never will be."¹² Constructed in 1855, the Planters Hotel was perhaps the city's most prominent landmark. After condemnation in 1957 and a fire, the building was demolished in 1958.¹³

In any case, after returning to his home town, W. P. Feth actively participated in Leavenworth society. He was a charter member, exalted ruler, and trustee of the Elks Lodge, a member of King Solomon Lodge, #10, A.F. & A. M., a member of the Abdallah Shrine, and a member of United Commercial Travelers in Leavenworth. He also served for three years as president of the Leavenworth Country Club.¹⁴ These community associations were important to Feth's career. For example, he designed the Elks Lodge building in 1910, the Masonic Temple in 1914, and the Shrine Temple in 1920. W. P. Feth retired in 1930.

Myron K. "Mickey" Feth also practiced architecture in Leavenworth for more than twenty years--first with his father and then on his own. Myron Feth went to the University of Pennsylvania because "it was the best school at the time." In his obituary, he was described as a graduate of the University. However, according to the registrar for the School of Design, University of Pennsylvania, M. K. Feth was enrolled only as a special student in the Architecture Department for the 1916-1917 academic year. M. K. Feth served in the U. S. Army during World War I. He married Louise Stolz of Leavenworth in St. Patrick's Cathedral, New York, on October 20, 1919. In 1942 or 1943, he joined the Army as a first lieutenant for two years and then worked for the Post Engineers at Fort Leavenworth until 1963 as a civilian employee. Most of his postwar work was in the planning of building programs.¹⁵

¹² "Who's Who in Leavenworth: William P. Feth," 12 July 1942.

¹³ J. H. Johnston, Leavenworth: Beginning to Bicentennial, 107.

¹⁴ "William Feth Was Retired Architect Here," Leavenworth Times 6 February 1959.

¹⁵ "'Mickey' Feth Winds Up His Work at Fort," Leavenworth Times, n.d., 1963, Leavenworth County Historical Society vertical file.

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Chronology -- William P. and Myron K. Feth

- 1867 William Pratt Feth born to Philip Feth and Catherine Heinback Feth
- Pre-1885 W. P. Feth worked in summers for Leavenworth architect E. T. Carr
- 1885 W. P. Feth moved to Chicago, trained as draftsman at Armour Mission
- 1887-1891 W. P. Feth worked for Burnham and Root, Chicago's leading architectural firm. William Feth, draftsman, listed in 1890 city directory.
- 1891-1893 E. T. Carr and W. P. Feth designed Dennis Sheedy Mansion, Denver, Colorado. W. P. Feth married Lillian Kauffman. Myron K. Feth born in Denver August 28, 1893.
- 1895 W. P. Feth designed Nathaniel Burt residence, Leavenworth, Kansas
- 1902 W. P. Feth designed Nazareth Academy, Concordia, Kansas
- 1904 W. P. Feth designed first Leavenworth High School
- 1911-1913 W. P. Feth designed and supervised reconstruction of Leavenworth County Courthouse
- 1916-1917 M. K. Feth attended University of Pennsylvania architecture classes as special student; served in U.S. Army during World War I.
- 1919 M. K. Feth married Louise Stolz, St. Patrick's Cathedral, New York
- 1920 M. K. Feth joined his father in Feth and Feth, Architects
- 1924 Feth and Feth designed Leavenworth City Hall
- 1930 W. P. Feth retired
- 1933 Feth and Hazelwood, associate architects, designed High School to replace building destroyed by fire.
- 1939 M. K. Feth designed Leavenworth County Jail
- 1942 M. K. Feth joined U. S. Army, then worked as architectural engineer and planner at Fort Leavenworth until retirement in 1963.
- 1959 W. P. Feth died
- 1976 M. K. Feth died.

The Designs of William Pratt Feth and Myron Kauffman Feth,
Architects, in Leavenworth, Kansas

INVENTORY LIST

Public and institutional buildings

Leavenworth County Courthouse, 300 Walnut, (1912), W. P. Feth. Individually listed on National Register.

Leavenworth City Hall, 100 N. 5th Street, (1925), Feth and Feth. Listed as contributing to Leavenworth Downtown District.

old Leavenworth County Jail, 503 S. 3rd Street, (1939), M. K. Feth.

Schools

old Third Avenue School [Ben Day School], 1100 Third Avenue (ca. 1920), Feth and Feth. Listed as contributing to Third Avenue District.

old Leavenworth Junior High School [Nettie Hartnett School], 1000 3rd Avenue, (1923), Feth and Feth. Listed as contributing to Third Avenue District.

North Broadway School, 801 N. Broadway, (ca. 1925), Feth and Feth.

old Leavenworth High School, 4th and Chestnut, (1933), Feth and Hazelwood, associate architects.

Howard Wilson School, 616 Grand Avenue, (1942), M. K. Feth

Churches and associated buildings

First Presbyterian Church, 407 Walnut (1909), W. P. Feth. Individually listed on National Register.

St. Paul Lutheran Church, 7th and Miami, (1911), W. P. Feth

Sacred Heart Church 501 2nd Avenue (1927), Feth and Feth. KHPO inventory.

Commercial and industrial buildings

Lambert Lumber Building, 601 Delaware (ca. 1904), W. P. Feth. Listed as contributing to Leavenworth Downtown District.

AXA Building [Espenscheid Building], 429 Delaware (1905), W. P. Feth. Listed as contributing to Leavenworth Downtown District.

People's Home Telephone Building, 529 Delaware, (ca. 1906), W. P. Feth. Listed as contributing to Leavenworth Downtown District.

J. W. Crancer Building, 528 Delaware (1908), W. P. Feth. Listed as contributing to Leavenworth Downtown District.

Masonic Temple Building [F. W. Woolworth] 421-423-425 Delaware (1914). W. P. Feth. Listed as contributing to Leavenworth Downtown District.

Missouri Valley Bridge and Iron Company Office [Chambers Building], 520 S. 4th Street (ca. 1914), W. P. Feth

Davis Funeral Home, 531 Shawnee (1867, ca. 1920) W. P. Feth re-styling. Listed as contributing to Leavenworth Downtown District.

Citizens Mutual Building, 312 S. 5th Street (1922), Feth and Feth

Jahn Grocery, 4th and Spruce (ca. 1930), M. K. Feth

Residences--Multi-family

Small Memorial Women's Home, 719 N. Broadway Street (1904), W. P. Feth. KHPO inventory.

St. Johns Nurses Home, 818 N. 7th Street, (1932), M. K. Feth

Feth Apartments, 4th and Walnut, W. P. Feth

J. H. Murray Apartments, 1103 S. 4th Street, W. P. Feth, M. K. Feth re-styling

Goodjohn Apartments, 1214 S. Broadway, M. K. Feth re-styling.

Alison Apartment, 7th and Walnut, M. K. Feth re-styling.

Residences--Single-family (W. P. Feth)

Nathaniel Burt House, 1200 5th Avenue (ca. 1895), W. P. Feth. Individually listed on the National Register 1987.

Thomas-Henry Helmers, Jr. House, 307 N. Broadway, (ca. 1880, ca. 1900, 1922), W. P. Feth. Listed as contributing to North Broadway Historic District.

Henry Helmers Sr., House, 501 S. Broadway (1904), W. P. Feth.

Louis Wulfekuhler House, 1030 S. Broadway, (ca. 1905), W. P. Feth.

Jesse M. Jones House, 1026 S. Broadway (ca. 1919), W. P. Feth.

John Murray House, 1020 S. 4th Street, W. P. Feth.

Lambert House, 922 S. 5th Street, W. P. Feth.

Garrett-Cobb House, 1032 Second Avenue (ca. 1905), W. P. Feth. Listed as contributing to Third Avenue Historic District.

Albert Schilling House, 1036 S. 2nd Avenue (ca. 1910), W. P. Feth. Listed as contributing to Third Avenue Historic District.

Ed Aaron House, 901 Third Avenue, W. P. Feth.

Michael Reilly House, 1033 Fifth Avenue, W. P. Feth.

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William Tholen House, 206 Arch (ca. 1909), W. P. Feth, associate architect.

Listed as contributing to Arch Street Historic District.

Sybil Harvey-Freeman House, 625 Olive (1902), W. P. Feth. Listed as contributing to Union Park Historic District.

Jacob Geyer House, 16690 Mt. Olivet Road, W. P. Feth.

Single-family (M. K. Feth)

Vossmer House, 1002 N. Broadway, M. K. Feth

James and Louis Davis House, 407 N. Broadway, M. K. Feth. Listed as contributing to North Broadway Historic District.

Fred C. Schulte House, 201 N. Broadway, (ca. 1930), M. K. Feth. Listed as contributing to North Broadway Historic District.

Searles House, 601 S. Broadway, M. K. Feth.

H. G. Sawyer House, 800 S. Broadway, M. K. Feth.

Art Kaaz, Jr. House, 1100 S. Broadway, M. K. Feth.

Ernest Schroeder House, 1112 S. Broadway, M. K. Feth

Walter and Alice Lambert House, 1200 S. Broadway 1930), M. K. Feth.

Eugene Kelly House, 1201 S. Broadway, M. K. Feth.

Earl Benner House, 1410 S. Broadway, M. K. Feth.

A. T. Szczygiel House, 1115 S. 5th Street, M. K. Feth.

E. W. Geiger III House, 425 Arch, M. K. Feth.

Joseph H. Callahan House, 802 S. Seventh (1922), M. K. Feth. Listed as contributing to Union Park Historic District.

Clyde Graeber House, 1332 Spruce, M. K. Feth

Dr. W. L. Jones House, 305 Linn, M. K. Feth.

Orlando D. Coppedge House, 1016 S. Esplanade (ca. 1925), M. K. Feth. Listed as contributing to S. Esplanade Historic District.

George Bernhardt House, 1220 S. Esplanade, M. K. Feth

Single-family re-styling (M. K. Feth)

George Ross-Abernathy House, 417 N. Esplanade (ca. 1870, ca. 1922), M. K. Feth re-styling. Listed as contributing to North Esplanade Historic District.

E. H. Durfee-Murfey House, 219 N. Esplanade (ca. 1872, ca. 1920), M. K. Feth re-styling. Listed as contributing to North Esplanade Historic District.

Smith-Lange House, 1000 S. Esplanade, (ca. 1868, ca. 1920). M. K. Feth restyling. Listed as contributing to S. Esplanade Historic District.

Russell Goodjohn house, 1204 S. Broadway, M. K. Feth restyling.

Baker House, 1108 S. 4th Street, M. K. Feth re-styling.

Attributed

Churches and associated buildings

St. Joseph Catholic Church Convent, 747 Osage (1912), W. P. Feth

Residence

Single-family

Chauncey L. Knapp House, 702 S. Seventh (ca. 1900), attributed to W. P. Feth.
Listed as contributing to Union Park Historic District.

Demolished buildings

Public and institutional buildings

Leavenworth High School (1904), W. P. Feth. Burned 1932.

Commercial buildings

Abdallah Shrine Temple, 513-519 Shawnee, (1922) W. P. Feth.
Demolished 1974.

Elks Lodge, 4th Street, (1910), W. P. Feth

Planters Hotel re-styling, (1903), W. P. Feth. Demolished 1958.

Residences--Multi-family

Jahn Apartments, 909 S. Fourth, Myron Feth

Jahn Apartments, 4th and Olive, Myron Feth

Architectural History

William Pratt Feth and his son Myron Kauffman Feth carried on a diverse general architectural practice in Leavenworth, Kansas from ca. 1895 to 1942. The associated property types document this practice and the evolution of architectural styles and building practices over the period of significance. Individual properties reflect the skill and principles of design demonstrated by the Feths, who were the most important architects in Leavenworth during the period of significance. Significance is associated with the influence of the Feths on Leavenworth through the important functions of the buildings they designed and the quality and contemporary expression of the many buildings they designed in the community.

(A) The Designs of William P. Feth, ca. 1895-1919

As a young man, William P. Feth was influenced by his association with noted Kansas architect E. T. Carr in Leavenworth and his work as a draftsman (approximately 1887-1891) for Burnham and Root, the leading architectural firm in Chicago. In the 1880s, John W. Root, the firm's principal designer, was attracted to the Romanesque and Queen Anne styles and the houses designed by Burnham and Root expressed this preference. Consequently, W. P. Feth's earliest known designs are Romanesque in form and massing, but Feth added ornament from the Queen Anne style to the Dennis Sheedy Mansion, 1115-1121 Grant Street, Denver, Colorado (1892-1894) creating an eclectic composition. This property was listed on the National Register in 2004.

When W. P. Feth returned to Leavenworth about 1895, his first commission established his qualifications as the leading architect in the town. Again the form and details of the Nathaniel Burt house, 1200 5th Avenue, are Romanesque, but the architect added Colonial Revival features. The plan is irregular and the building has a main truncated hip roof with secondary conical, gable and shed roofs. The three-bay front has a large projecting rounded center bay. The Burt house has a native limestone foundation with brick walls laid in English bond and ornamental brick string courses and window detailing. When listed on the National Register in 1987, the nomination concluded that the Nathaniel Burt house was the most architecturally intact residential building in Leavenworth representing the Richardsonian Romanesque style.

W. P. Feth was thirty-three years old in 1900 at the beginning of his most productive period. During the next fourteen years, he designed a remarkable array of buildings in Leavenworth in a variety of styles that demonstrated his knowledge of contemporary architecture. Reportedly, Feth drew plans for buildings in Omaha, Seattle, and Kansas City. Despite inquiries to historic preservation agencies and archives in those cities, no evidence of these commissions has been found. During and immediately after World War I, the pace of building in Leavenworth slowed. Although W. P. Feth and his son Myron designed several important buildings in Leavenworth during the 1920s. After William Feth retired in 1930, more of the work involved the design of new residences and the re-styling of existing residences.

Another example of Feth's Romanesque eclectic design is the Thomas-Helmerts House, 307 N. Broadway. This residence was built about 1880, but the present

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appearance dates from an extensive ca. 1900 re-styling by Feth for Henry Helmers, Jr. The house has a large round-arched front window and a second-story front bay window. The design also incorporates classical details such as a segmental-arched panel aligned with the front entry. The residence is listed as a contributing property in the North Broadway Historic District.

The Sybil Harvey House, 625 Olive (1902), another Romanesque-eclectic composition, is one of W. P. Feth's finest residential buildings. The house combines Romanesque brick masonry and massing with Queen Anne and Classical Revival details. The house has a steep hip roof with flared eaves and a hipped front dormer with a small balcony. The property is listed as contributing to the Union Park Historic District. The residence was commissioned by Frederick H. Harvey for his daughter Sybil. Frederick Harvey established the Harvey House chain of restaurants which were located along the line of the Santa Fe Railroad and earned a national reputation for quality food and service. Harvey died in 1901 before his daughter's house was completed. Sybil Harvey remained in the family mansion across the street (624 Olive) with her widowed mother even after marrying banker Sylvester Parker in the 1920s. The Sybil Harvey house was occupied by Henry Freeman in 1903 and sold in 1927 to Henry W. Kaufmann, who operated a grocery store in the neighborhood.

The Henry Helmers Sr. House, 501 S. Broadway (1904), is another Romanesque-eclectic composition. The rectangular brick house has an imposing round-arched masonry porch entrance, a projecting bay window on the second floor flanked by ornamental circular windows, and a central roof dormer ornamented with a prominent round-arched molding.

During his early years as an independent architect, W. P. Feth designed one of the most significant buildings in Concordia, a county seat and railroad center in north central Kansas. Feth may have designed the Nazareth Convent and Academy building as early as 1898. A site for the academy was purchased on the outskirts of town in 1892. The building foundation was begun in 1898, but work was delayed because of the lack of funds. Eventually, a cornerstone was laid May 15, 1902 and the building was completed in June, 1903. The Romanesque style Academy has three full stories on a raised basement with a prominent central tower. It was described by the chronicles of the Order of St. Joseph as "an outstanding piece of architectural work for its time."

With a reputation established by designing some of the finest residences in Leavenworth, W. P. Feth was chosen in 1903 to design the remodeling of the Planters' Hotel constructed in 1855. As Feth recalled, "eighty thousand dollars was spent on remodeling and modernizing the hotel which consumed more than a year. There was a grand opening when the job was completed with a grand ball. The barroom at the southeast corner of the building was the finest in this section. The Planters hotel of that day was something never surpassed in Leavenworth and probably never will be."¹⁶

While the Planter's Hotel project was in progress, Feth won two other major commissions that were completed in 1904--the first Leavenworth High School, 4th and Chestnut and the Small Memorial Women's Home, 719 North Broadway. The large Renaissance style brick High School building cost approximately \$60,000.

¹⁶ "Who's Who in Leavenworth: William P. Feth," Leavenworth Times 12 July 1942.

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Feth also designed an east wing constructed a few years later. This building burned in 1932.

The Small Memorial Women's Home remains one of Feth's most prominent architectural monuments. As a reporter for the Leavenworth Times commented on the splendid new Womens' Home, "the Home is indeed a model. With its external beauty of construction and its inner arrangements for the comfort of the aged women who are to be its sole occupants, nothing in the west could compare with it in either regard." The reporter added, "with its colonial three-storied porticos and broad curving verandas facing in three directions, the building is a mark of beauty as one approaches from either side." The old Women's Home is a magnificent example of monumental Colonial Revival design. It is constructed of buff-colored brick with a semicircular corner entrance and Colonial Revival ornamentation. There are two prominent two-story porticoes surmounted by Palladian wall dormers.

Other designs for commercial buildings demonstrated W. P. Feth's proficiency in the Classical Revival, a style that became widely popular in the early twentieth century. This category includes the Lambert Lumber Company Building, 601 Delaware (ca. 1904). The building has corner pilasters with stone capitals and bases, a central entrance bay flanked by pilasters, and a wide entablature and projecting ornamental cornice at the eave. The building continued in company use until 1954. It is listed as a contributing property in the Leavenworth Downtown Historic District.

Compared to the Lambert Building, the Espenscheid Building, 429 Delaware, currently known as the AXA Building, has a much more ornate façade with eclectic stylistic elements. The main façade on Fifth Street has two sections connected on the first floor by a semicircular arched masonry opening over the main entrance. Paired bay windows with elaborate detailing surmounted by a projecting segmental arched molding accentuate the second floor. There is an ornamental cornice with paired brackets and a dentil eave molding. The building was constructed in 1905 for Charles Espenscheid, a St. Louis investor. It had space for five stores and 26 office suites on the second floor. The Espenscheid Building is listed as a contributing property in the Leavenworth Downtown Historic District.

The People's Home Telephone Building, 529 Delaware, (ca. 1906), is a well-preserved example of the Colonial Revival style. The building has a symmetrical brick and limestone façade with a round-arched entrance opening. The building has a raised foundation faced with stone, an central panel in stone with brick end bays outlined with stone quoins. There is a projecting cornice with a dentil band. The old Telephone building is listed as a contributing property in the Leavenworth Downtown Historic District.

In 1908 W. P. Feth designed the only "skyscraper" type building in downtown Leavenworth utilizing the skills in planning multi-story buildings learned in the Burnham and Root office. The J. W. Crancer Building, 528 Delaware, is a six-story brick building with a three-bay front. This business was the largest fabricator of metal products west of the Mississippi. The company later sold hardware, cutlery, and sporting goods. The Montgomery Ward department store occupied the building from 1930 to 1970. This simple Commercial style building has a first floor storefront with transom and paired double-hung windows on the

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upper floors. Modest ornamentation includes geometric stone capitals surmounting the brick piers and raised brick eave panels. The building is a contributing property in the Leavenworth Downtown Historic District.

While working on the Crancer Building, W. P. Feth also designed a different type of building in a much more elaborate Classical Revival style, the First Presbyterian Church, 407 Walnut. Growth of the congregation presumably required the construction of Leavenworth's third Presbyterian church. The congregation acquired the church on February 28, 1906 and the cornerstone was laid on November 18, 1907. When the church was dedicated on January 3, 1907, the program described the architecture as "classical design" and noted that the building was "strictly modern in every respect." The seating capacity of the main auditorium [sanctuary] was about 450 people. The brick church has an Ionic portico on the main east elevation, light colored stone ornamentation, and an education wing to the south. The property was individually listed on the National Register in 2006.

During this period, W. P. Feth designed another church in a different architectural style. The St. Paul Lutheran Church was one of the oldest religious congregations in Leavenworth. The church moved to the site at Seventh and Miami in 1866. Later, the congregation built a brick church in 1889. By the early twentieth century, the building was inadequate. In 1909 the church building committee hired W. P. Feth, "the local architect," to prepare plans and specifications. The 1889 church building was removed in April, 1911 and the new church "constructed on simple lines in the Romanesque style of architecture." The St. Paul Lutheran Church is constructed of dark red vitrified brick with Phoenix cut stone trim.¹⁷ There are round-arched openings with ornamental windows in the main east and south facades with a square entrance tower at the corner.

The 1904 High School, the design and rebuilding of the Leavenworth County Courthouse in 1911-1912, and the 1924 City Hall were W. P. Feth's most important design commissions in Leavenworth. The courthouse burned on March 22, 1911 due to faulty wiring. The fire gutted the three-story brick Second Empire style building, leaving only the exterior masonry walls still standing. Soon after the fire, county commissioner hired W. P. Feth to design a new courthouse "along simple, graceful lines." Apparently, Feth argued for reconstruction on the site using the existing foundation and walls rather than demolition and construction of an entirely new building. The present courthouse at 300 Walnut was completed in 1912. It is a three-story Classical Revival style building that occupies a full city block. The walls are cut limestone laid in running bond with a rusticated limestone foundation. A restrained cornice and parapet ornament the roofline. There are two-story pedimented porticos with Ionic columns accentuating the primary north and south entrances and one-story porticoes on the east and west entrances. The courthouse was listed on the National Register in 2002 as a contributing property in the Multiple Property nomination, "Historic County Courthouses of Kansas."

Soon after completing the Courthouse, W. P. Feth designed the Masonic Temple Building, 421-425 Delaware, in 1914. Constructed by the Leavenworth Masonic

¹⁷ "The Evangelical Lutheran Church Dedicated Today," Leavenworth Times 10 December 1911, p. 3, col. 1.

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Lodge, this is an excellent example of the Classical Revival style adapted for use as a commercial retail building. The interior is an example of the open-plan department store. Most of the first floor was rented to the F. W. Woolworth Company which continues to this date and there is a small shop to the west. The Masonic Temple building is a three-story, nine-bay brick building with terra cotta ornamentation. Brick pillars define the upper story bays. Ornamentation includes a dentil course, brackets, an elaborate molded cornice and ornamental parapet. The building is a contributing property in the Leavenworth Downtown Historic District.

Contrasting with the ornate Masonic Temple block, W. P. Feth designed a graceful, but unadorned small office building for the Missouri Valley Bridge and Iron Company Office, 520 S. Fourth. The property was first recorded in the Leavenworth city directory in 1914. This is the only known Feth design with Prairie style features. It is a rectangular two-story brick building with smooth-cut stone window sills and a stone belt course under the second-story windows. There is a hipped roof with flared overhanging eaves. It is presently known as the Chambers Building.

Residences

The Louis Wulfekuhler house, 1030 South Broadway, is a well preserved example of the Colonial Revival style designed by W. P. Feth. According to architectural drawings dated 1905, the residence was designed and constructed about 1905 for Louis H. Wulfekuhler, an attorney and Kansas state senator. There is a two-story carriage house in the rear. Architectural details include a full-length entrance porch on square tapered posts with turned balusters in the railing and a pedimented central porch entrance. The central entrance is accentuated with sidelights, a transom and dentil molding. There is a central bay window on the second floor rising to a wall dormer with an ornamental Palladian window. Decorative brackets and eave details ornament the eave.

Another example of the Colonial Revival style is the Lambert House, 922 S. Fifth (ca. 1905). This large wood-frame residence has a main hipped roof with a front gable on hip wall dormer and two side hipped roof dormers. The house weatherboard on the first story and wood shingle sheathing on the second story. Colonial Revival style details include the ell porch supported on rectangular brick piers and wooden columns with an ornamental balustrade, pedimented porticos over the front entrance and side porch bay, a front bay window on the second story surmounted by the elaborately detailed recessed wall dormer. There is a molded eave cornice with ornamental brackets. The property also has a two-story wood-frame carriage house with a hipped roof.

Less common than the Colonial Revival, but still popular in the early twentieth century, an example of a Classical Revival style residence designed by W. P. Feth is the Michael Reilly House, 1033 Fifth Avenue (ca. 1905). This rectangular wood-frame residence has a hipped roof. The full-length front porch has single and paired columns on the first floor and a central porch bay on single columns on the second floor. The second floor bay has a molded fascia and dentil molding at the eave. Architectural integrity has been compromised by modern synthetic siding and replacement porch balusters.

The Garrett-Cobb House, 1032 Second Avenue, is a two-story wood frame Queen

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Anne style house with a hip roof. Samuel and Lettie Garrett bought this property in 1904 and the construction of the house is attributed to them. W. F. and Ruth Garrett Cobb acquired the house in 1909 and the Cobb family lived there into the 1950s. This residence is listed as a contributing property in the Third Avenue Historic District.

Next to the Garrett house at 1036 S. 2nd Avenue, Albert Schilling, secretary-treasurer of the Missouri Valley Bridge and Iron Company, had his residence constructed about 1910 with a design by W. P. Feth. The Schilling family lived in the house into the 1940s. The two-story wood frame house has a gable roof. It is a Queen Ann style building with Shingle style ornamental features. The Schilling residence is listed as a contributing property in the Third Avenue Historic District.

Of the styles popular in the early twentieth century for residences, only two examples of the Craftsman style associated with W. P. Feth are known. The William Tholen House, 206 Arch was built about 1909. William Tholan and his brother Webster operated the Tholen Brothers Supply Company. W. P. Feth was an associate architect in the design of the house. It is a one-and-a-half-story wood frame residence in the Craftsman style. It has wood shingle sheathing and a front gable roof with gable brackets and shed dormers. This residence is listed as a contributing property in the Arch Street Historic District.

The other example of the Craftsman style attributed to W. P. Feth is the Jesse M. Jones House, 1026 S. Broadway, constructed about 1919. This one-story wood-frame house has a front gable roof with rear intersecting gables. There is a partial width front gable porch on massive brick piers with a brick railing.

(B) The Designs of Feth and Feth, 1920-1930

The Citizens Mutual Building and Loan Building, 312 S. 5th Street, (1922), is a rectangular one-story building with a central entrance facing Fifth Street and a flat roof and parapet. The main east and south facades are sheathed with smooth-cut stone. Prominent features of the Classical Revival style include the molded entrance surround with slightly projecting cornice and dentil molding. Masonry openings in the south façade have semicircular raised moldings. There is a projecting molded eave cornice and parapet with raised pier blocks. A modern drive-up banking structure to the south and a modern three-part semicircular awning on poles detract from the architectural integrity.

A more prominent building, the Abdallah Shrine Temple, 513-519 Shawnee, was completed in 1922 and demolished in 1974. This three-story brick building had Classical Revival details such as ornamental lintels, pilasters, and a projecting eave cornice with dentil molding. The Abdallah Shrine was founded in Leavenworth in 1887 and a temple built at 511 Shawnee. Feth and Feth designed a large building next door that was completed in 1922. After the Shrine headquarters moved to Kansas City in 1954, the building had a number of uses. The Shrine Temple was demolished to provide off-street parking.

Other important projects by Feth and Feth in the 1920s were the old Third Avenue School, the old Leavenworth Junior High School, and the North Broadway School. The Third Avenue School [Ben Day School], 1100 Third Avenue, was built

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about 1920. This is a rectangular two-story Tudor Revival style building with a flat roof and parapet. The school is brick masonry with stone ornament. The two slightly projecting entrance bays are surmounted by peaked parapets with stone shield and banner details. Ornamentation includes parapet panels with stone tracery, projecting basketweave brick panels in the spandrels, and sections of checkered brick and stucco frieze. The building is listed as a contributing property in the Third Avenue Historic District.

The old Leavenworth Junior High School [Nettie Hartnett School], 1000 Third Avenue was constructed in 1923. Like the Third Avenue school, this is a two-story Tudor Revival style brick building with stone ornamentation and a flat roof and parapet. There is a projecting entrance bay centered in the front (east) façade. It has a castellated parapet with a Tudor-arched opening, quatrefoil ornament in the spandrels, and a peak above the entrance. The school is listed as a contributing property in the Third Avenue Historic District.

The Leavenworth City Hall, 100 North 5th Street, is the most significant building designed by Feth and Feth. Completed in 1925, the City Hall was described in 1927 as representing "the ultra in municipal buildings." As a journalist described, "the architecture, perfected by Feth and Feth, a well-known Leavenworth firm, in 1924, is classical. The building itself is constructed of reinforced concrete with terrazza [sic] corridors." The building was more than a city hall since it housed all the offices of the city administration, police and fire departments, and the offices of the municipal water plant. On the second floor was an auditorium which was used for "all larger social and business meetings in Leavenworth. This has a seating capacity of 600."¹⁸

The City Hall is a two-story Classical Revival style building, a popular style for institutional buildings in the early twentieth century. The south front has a formal entrance in the three-bay front with pilasters defining the bays. There is a central projecting bay in the west front with a recessed double-door entrance surmounted by a bracketed cornice and flanked by two-story Ionic columns. A wide entablature and projecting cornice accentuate the eave which is surmounted by a brick parapet with projecting square brick piers. The City Hall is a contributing property in the Leavenworth Downtown Historic District.

Another major project of the 1920s for Feth and Feth was the Sacred Heart Church, 501 2nd Avenue. The congregation laid the church cornerstone on May 16, 1926. The new church had a seating capacity of 550. As the reporter for the Leavenworth Times described, the church "will be modern in all its appointments. The architecture is Romanesque style and the brick and tile for the roof will match the parish house erected about ten years ago."¹⁹

Sacred Heart Parish was founded in 1886 to serve Catholics living south of Spruce Street in Leavenworth. Many of the prominent and influential families in the town were members. Rev. Father M. J. O'Farrell was sent to Leavenworth in 1924 to plan the new church. Rev. O'Farrell selected Myron Feth to design the building "in the true Romanesque architecture." The contract was let in

¹⁸ "The Leavenworth City Hall," Kansas Municipalities 13:6 (June 1927), p. 21-22.

¹⁹ "Hold Ceremony for Dedication of New Church," Leavenworth Times 17 May 1926, p. 8, col. 1.

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May, 1926 and the completed church represented an investment of \$80,000. As the Leavenworth Times reported, "the result is something that all of Leavenworth has greatly admired." Although the first service in the church was held on Christmas Day, 1926, but the dedication was delayed until November 24, 1927, because of the illness of Bishop Ward.²⁰

The church is a rectangular brick building with a high gable roof and a bell tower at the northwest corner. The bell tower has round-arched masonry openings with a central column. The one-story full-length entrance portico is supported on brick end piers and two central Corinthian columns. There is a broad smooth-cut stone eave cornice. A large round stained-glass window lights the upper gable end with round-arched brick detailing ornamenting the eave. The church has stained-class windows set in round-arched masonry openings in the north and south facades. A modern two-story brick addition extends from the rear of the church to the south. North of the church stands a two-story brick rectory (ca. 1919) with a side gable roof and a projecting pedimented entrance.

Residences

Another Feth and Feth design from this period continued the preference for Colonial Revival style residences. The Joseph H. Callahan House, 802 S. Seventh, was built in 1922. Callahan's drugstore was located nearby at 900 Fifth Avenue. M. K. Feth was the architect. This is a two-story wood frame residence. Colonial Revival features include a pent roof across the front (southeast) with a small gable dormer on heavy brackets and an arched ceiling over the front entry. At the south end of the house, there is an engaged one-story screened porch supported on heavy round stuccoed pillars. The residence is listed as a contributing property in the Union Park Historic District.

Probably designed by M. K. Feth and constructed about 1924, the James and Louise Davis House, 407 N. Broadway, is a one-story wood frame has a rough stucco exterior. The general style is Mission with a clay tile gable roof and metal grill work around the front entry. However the design of the entry in a recessed round-arched opening in a stone-veneer front gable end wall is more characteristic of the Tudor Revival style. The Davis house is listed as a contributing property in the North Broadway Historic District.

(C) The Designs of Myron K. Feth, 1931-1942

In March 1932, the St. John's Hospital announced that a new Nurses Home would be erected on Seventh Street south of the hospital at Seventh and Kiowa. The hospital had been established in the late nineteenth century and a training school for nurses began in 1903. Nurses' quarters were located in the hospital. With sixteen nurses in training in 1932, the administrators decided to build a separate building south of the hospital at 818 N. 7th Street. When the project was announced, "Mr. Feth, the architect," was "giving the final touches to the plans." St. John's Hospital burned in the 1970s so the Nurses Home, 818 N. 7th Street, is the only surviving link to the original site.²¹ The Nurses's Home is a two-story brick Colonial Revival Style building with raised

²⁰ "Dedicated Sacred Heart Church on Thanksgiving," Leavenworth Times 23 November 1927, p. 3, cols. 1-3.

²¹ "New Nurses Quarters for St. Johns to be Erected," Leavenworth Times 75th Anniversary Edition 6 March 1932.

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basement and a sidegable roof. The main entrance facing Seventh Street has a portico on round columns surmounted by an ornamental balustrade. The building is rectangular with an end wing and second entrance to the south.

Leavenworth had the first public high school in Kansas established in 1865. The school moved from one location to another until 1886 when the board of education purchased and remodeled the Westminster church building for the high school. Students moved into a fine new structure designed by W. P. Feth in 1904. That building on the north side of Chestnut Street between Fourth and Fifth, burned on January 29, 1932, but Leavenworth citizens quickly approved a bond issue to replace it and a new 800-student building was completed one year later.²² The high school, which cost almost \$182,000, opened for inspection on March 30, 1933. Cost almost \$182,000. Feth and Hazelwood, architects of Leavenworth, were the designers in association with Felt, Dunham and Kriehn, Kansas City, Missouri.²³

Relatively unornamented, the brick Tudor Revival style building features a few Jacobethan details. The design is simplified, but similar to the earlier Tudor Revival schools, Myron Feth designed. Because of his education, M. K. Feth would have been familiar with the landmark buildings of the Jacobethan style--the buildings at the University of Pennsylvania that were constructed after 1895. The old Leavenworth High School has a three-story façade to the east and a two-story façade with raised basement to the west. Projecting entrance bays are ornamented with smooth-cut stone quoins. The main facades are relatively plain with carved stone panels surmounting the south and east entrances. There are stone panels with carved round-arched niches ornamenting the parapet wall. The banks of windows also have stone trim.

The final projects designed by M. K. Feth in Leavenworth show his assimilation of the Modern style into his design repertoire. After a campaign for a new jail building in the late 1930s, Leavenworth county voters approved the construction of a new modern building that was completed in 1939. The federal Public Works Administration contributed \$59,400 and the county paid \$72,600 for the total cost of the building located east of the County Courthouse. Myron Feth, the building architect, was an honored guest at the opening ceremony. A representative of the Public Works Administration, said that "the purposes, the aims, the very spirit of PWA--is embodied in this structure." He added that the aim of the PWA is that its projects render service for many years and he concluded that "solidly built of the best materials, this building will stand for many years."²⁴

The rectangular two-story jail building is constructed of variegated brick with a raised basement, a flat roof and stepped parapet. Slightly projected bays articulate the main façade and outline the central entrance. The simple detailing is limited to smooth-cut stone window sills and a carved panel with modernistic ornament above the entrance.

Myron Feth's last known commission in Leavenworth is the Howard Wilson elementary school constructed in 1942. This two-story brick building has a flat roof. The school has had several additions, but the main block has simple

²² "Kansas's Oldest High School to Graduate Largest Class," Kansas City Star 24 May 1938, KSHS Clippings,--Schools, p. 12.

²³ Junebug (May, 1934), published annually by senior class, Leavenworth Senior High School.

²⁴ "Crowd of 2,000 at Dedication Jail Building," Leavenworth Times 18 December 1939, p. 4, cols. 3-6.

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lines with modest brick detailing including a raised belt course and geometric ornament in recessed panels.

Residences

The residential designs of M. K. Feth reflect the wide-spread change in preference for period styles that occurred after World War I. For example, the Art Kaaz, Jr. House, 1100 S. Broadway, (ca. 1930) is a well preserved example of the Colonial Revival that was the dominant style for residential building during the first half of the twentieth century. This rectangular wood-frame house has a one-story wing to the south and a sidegable roof. There is rough-cut stone laid in ashlar bond on the first story with rusticated wood shingle sheathing on the second story. Colonial Revival style details include a molded door surround with an ornamental semicircular pediment above the entrance and 6/1 double-hung windows with an eave molding.

Based on the number and elaborate detailing of the surviving examples, Myron Feth must have preferred the Tudor Revival style. Several well-preserved residences in this style were built about 1930.

The two-story brick residence at 1200 South Broadway was built for Walter and Alice Lambert. The Lambert family owned a group of lumberyards in the Midwest. W. P. Feth designed the Lambert Lumber Company office in downtown Leavenworth. Walter Lambert personally selected the materials for his residence include the gum woodwork stained cherry, the oversize fireplace mantel in the living room, and the slate flooring in the entryway. Mrs. Lambert, an English instructor at Saint Mary College in Leavenworth, had traveled to Europe where she acquired a preference for Tudor architecture which they imitated in their residence. The residence has a prominent rough-cut stone exterior chimney with a ornamental brick top, a molded front entrance surround with a pointed arch, a projecting 18-light window over the entrance, and half-timbering on the second floor. The two-story house has a high-pitched main gable roof and hipped roofs on the south wing and an enclosed porch to the south.

North of the Lambert house, the Ernest Schroeder House, 1112 S. Broadway is slightly less elaborate, but a very good example of the Tudor Revival style. The two-story stucco residence has a high hipped roof with tall brick end chimneys. There is a projecting front entrance bay with a round-arched brick entrance and half-timbering detail above the second story window. This house also has an integral sunroom to the south.

The Earl Benner House, 1410 S. Broadway, is a very large residence similar in planform to the Lambert and Schroeder houses but without elaborate details. The Tudor Revival style is reflected in the front gable-roofed entrance bay and high hipped roof on the main block. The entry roof and small ornamental windows suggest details of the Colonial Revival style. This two-story house is mainly sheathed with wood shingles. Again, there is an integral screened porch to the south.

In another variation of the Tudor Revival, the E. W. Geiger III House, 425 Arch, (ca. 1930), has a main block with a high gable roof and projecting bay to the east and a hip-roofed wing to the west. The bay has half-timbering detailing on the second story. There is an ornamental entry and an ornamental

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exterior chimney with rough-cut stone base and brick top. The residence is mainly sheathed with vertical boards.

Feth and Feth Thematic Nomination

Section F. Associated Property Types**1. Public and institutional buildings****Description:**

Public and institutional buildings associated with this property type have been designed by William Pratt Feth and his son Myron Kauffman Feth and built between ca. 1895 and 1942 in Leavenworth, Kansas. Individual properties reflect the skill and principles of design demonstrated by the Feths, who were the most important architects in Leavenworth during the period of significance.

Significance:**Significance**

Public and institutional buildings designed by William Pratt Feth and Myron Kauffman Feth are locally significant according to criterion A in the area of **community planning and development** and according to criterion C in the area of **architecture**. Significance is associated with the influence of the Feths on Leavenworth through the important functions of the buildings they designed and the quality and contemporary expression of the many buildings they designed in the community.

Registration Requirements:

To meet registration requirements, buildings of this property type should be evaluated for their architectural integrity, distinction and association with the historical contexts.

Nominated properties should exhibit most of the seven aspects of integrity: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. If the first five aspects are intact, the aspect of feeling also will be present. The aspect of association is present in all properties selected for inclusion in this nomination because they are associated with the Feths.

To be eligible for listing in the National Register, all Feth-designed buildings should retain their physical integrity, generally exhibiting original materials (with the possible exception of roof material, window alteration, minor exterior changes). The buildings should retain characteristic planforms, scale, roof shape, and fenestration so as to express a definite sense of their historic architectural character. The buildings must be in their original location. The physical condition of the buildings should be reasonably good.

Any additions should not obstruct the adjoining elevation and should be attached to the original building in a minimal and unobtrusive manner. The scale of the building should not be altered, including changes in the façade, roof height, or architectural detailing.

Old Leavenworth High School

Old Leavenworth County Jail

Feth and Feth Thematic Nomination

Section F. Associated Property Types

Description:

Churches and associated buildings

Description:

Churches and associated buildings characteristic of this property type have been designed by William Pratt Feth and his son Myron Kauffman Feth and built between ca. 1895 and 1942 in Leavenworth, Kansas. Individual properties reflect the skill and principles of design demonstrated by the Feths, who were the most important architects in Leavenworth during the period of significance.

Significance

Churches and associated buildings designed by William Pratt Feth and Myron Kauffman Feth are locally significant according to criterion A in the area of **community planning and development** and according to criterion C in the area of **architecture**. Significance is associated with the influence of the Feths on Leavenworth through the important functions of the buildings they designed and the quality and contemporary expression of the many buildings they designed in the community.

Registration Requirements:

To meet registration requirements, buildings of this property type should be evaluated for their architectural integrity, distinction and association with the historical contexts.

Nominated properties should exhibit most of the seven aspects of integrity: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. If the first five aspects are intact, the aspect of feeling also will be present. The aspect of association is present in all properties selected for inclusion in this nomination because they are associated with the Feths.

To be eligible for listing in the National Register, all Feth-designed buildings should retain their physical integrity, generally exhibiting original materials (with the possible exception of roof material, window alteration, minor exterior changes). The buildings should retain characteristic planforms, scale, roof shape, and fenestration so as to express a definite sense of their historic architectural character. The buildings must be in their original location. The physical condition of the buildings should be reasonably good.

Any additions should not obstruct the adjoining elevation and should be attached to the original building in a minimal and unobtrusive manner. The scale of the building should not be altered, including changes in the façade, roof height, or architectural detailing.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Sacred Heart Catholic Church

Feth and Feth Thematic Nomination

Section F. Associated Property Types

Commercial and industrial buildings

Description:

Commercial and industrial buildings characteristic of this property type have been designed by William Pratt Feth and his son Myron Kauffman Feth and built between ca. 1895 and 1942 in Leavenworth, Kansas. Individual properties reflect the skill and principles of design demonstrated by the Feths, who were the most important architects in Leavenworth during the period of significance.

Significance

Commercial and industrial buildings designed by William Pratt Feth and Myron Kauffman Feth are locally significant according to criterion A in the area of **community planning and development** and according to criterion C in the area of **architecture**. Significance is associated with the influence of the Feths on Leavenworth through the important functions of the buildings they designed and the quality and contemporary expression of the many buildings they designed in the community.

Registration Requirements:

To meet registration requirements, buildings of this property type should be evaluated for their architectural integrity, distinction and association with the historical contexts.

Nominated properties should exhibit most of the seven aspects of integrity: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. If the first five aspects are intact, the aspect of feeling also will be present. The aspect of association is present in all properties selected for inclusion in this nomination because they are associated with the Feths.

To be eligible for listing in the National Register, all Feth-designed buildings should retain their physical integrity, generally exhibiting original materials (with the possible exception of roof material, window alteration, minor exterior changes). The buildings should retain characteristic planforms, scale, roof shape, and fenestration so as to express a definite sense of their historic architectural character. The buildings must be in their original location. The physical condition of the buildings should be reasonably good.

Any additions should not obstruct the adjoining elevation and should be attached to the original building in a minimal and unobtrusive manner. The scale of the building should not be altered, including changes in the façade, roof height, or architectural detailing.

Missouri Valley Bridge and Iron Office [{Chambers Building}]

Citizens Mutual Building

Residences

Description:

Residential buildings characteristic of this property type have been designed by William Pratt Feth and his son Myron Kauffman Feth and built between ca. 1895 and 1942 in Leavenworth, Kansas. Individual properties reflect the skill and principles of design demonstrated by the Feths, who were the most important architects in Leavenworth during the period of significance. Significance:

Significance

Multi-family and single-family residential buildings designed by William Pratt Feth and Myron Kauffman Feth are locally significant according to criterion A in the area of **community planning and development** and according to criterion C in the area of **architecture**. Significance is associated with the influence of the Feths on Leavenworth through the important functions of the buildings they designed and the quality and contemporary expression of the many buildings they designed in the community.

Registration Requirements:

To meet registration requirements, buildings of this property type should be evaluated for their architectural integrity, distinction and association with the historical contexts.

Nominated properties should exhibit most of the seven aspects of integrity: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. If the first five aspects are intact, the aspect of feeling also will be present. The aspect of association is present in all properties selected for inclusion in this nomination because they are associated with the Feths.

To be eligible for listing in the National Register, all Feth-designed buildings should retain their physical integrity, generally exhibiting original materials (with the possible exception of roof material, window alteration, minor exterior changes). The buildings should retain characteristic planforms, scale, roof shape, and fenestration so as to express a definite sense of their historic architectural character. The buildings must be in their original location. The physical condition of the buildings should be reasonably good.

Any additions should not obstruct the adjoining elevation and should be attached to the original building in a minimal and unobtrusive manner. The scale of the building should not be altered, including changes in the façade, roof height, or architectural detailing.

a) Apartment buildings

William Small Memorial Home (1904), Colonial Revival, "The Designs of William P. Feth, ca. 1895-1919."

St. John's Nurses Home (1932), Colonial Revival, "The Designs of Myron K.

b) Residences

Romanesque:

Henry Helmers, Sr. House, 501 S. Broadway (1904), Romanesque, eclectic,
"The Designs of William P. Feth, ca. 1895-1919."

Classical Revival:

Michael Reilly House, 1033 Fifth Avenue (ca. 1905), "The Designs of
William. P. Feth, ca. 1895-1919."

Colonial Revival:

Lambert House, 922 S. Fifth (ca. 1905), "The Designs of William P. Feth,
ca. 1895-1919."

Art Kaaz, Jr. House, 1100 S. Broadway, (ca. 1930), "The Designs of Myron
K. Feth, 1931-1942."

Craftsman:

Jesse M. Jones House, 1026 S. Broadway (ca. 1919), "The Designs of William
P. Feth, ca. 1895-1919."

Tudor Revival:

Ernest Schroeder House, 1112 S. Broadway (ca. 1930), The Designs of Myron
K. Feth, 1931-1942."

Walter and Alice Lambert House, 1200 S. Broadway (1930), The Designs of
Myron K. Feth, 1931-1942."

Earl Benner House, 1410 S. Broadway (ca. 1930), The Designs of Myron K.
Feth, 1931-1942."

E. W. Geiger III House, 425 Arch (ca. 1930), The Designs of Myron K. Feth,
1931-1942."

The properties in this nomination document the work of two exceptional architects who were locally significant in a distinctive Kansas community. This multiple property nomination is based on a list of buildings designed by W. P. Feth, Feth and Feth, and M. K. Feth. M. K. Feth gave the list to Gair Sloan sometime in 1971 (two years before Feth's death). Mr. Sloan then presented that list to the Leavenworth Historical Society on April 24, 1986.

Also, major buildings designed by W. P. Feth were noted in an article, "Who's Who in Leavenworth: William P. Feth," published in the Leavenworth Times July 12, 1942. Additional (and some conflicting) information was published in obituaries--"William Feth Was Retired Architect Here," Leavenworth Times February 6, 1959, and "Myron Feth," Leavenworth Times September 27, 1976. The articles about W. P. Feth mentioned that he designed buildings in Omaha, Nebraska, Kansas City, Missouri, and Seattle, Washington. The consultant contacted preservation agencies in each location, but none had any record of buildings designed by W. P. Feth. Further research yield more information. Signed and dated architectural drawings for a number of Feth-designed properties survive in the hands of individual property owners.

Based on the list of Feth and Feth designed properties and others identified through additional research, the consultant surveyed the buildings designed by Feth and Feth. For each surveyed property, locations were noted and recorded on a base map of Leavenworth. The consultant took photographs, both black and white and digital of exterior elevations. The consultant conducted research in secondary and primary sources. The consultant completed digital KSHS inventory forms were completed.

A number of the properties designed by Feth and Feth either have been listed individually or listed as properties contributing to National Register districts. Several properties were selected for designation in this nomination. Properties selected for nomination have significant associations with the historical contexts, good architectural integrity, and owner consent for the proposed nomination.

H. Bibliography

Articles

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Fred Vanderschmidt, Jr. "The Leavenworth City, Hall," Kansas Municipalities 13:6 (June 1927), 21-22.

Books

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Hines, Thomas S. Burnham of Chicago: Architect and Planner (New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 1974).

Hoffmann, Donald. The Architecture of John Wellborn Root (Baltimore & London: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1973).

Johnston, J. H. III. Leavenworth, Beginning to Bicentennial (Atchison, KS: Benedictine College Press, 1976).

---- Early Leavenworth and Fort Leavenworth: A Photographic History (Leavenworth, KS: J. H. Johnston, 1977).

---- The Leavenworth Register (Leavenworth, KS: J. H. Johnston, 2001).

Portrait and Biographical Record of Leavenworth, Douglas, and Franklin Counties (Chicago, IL: Chapman Publishing Company, 1899).

National Register nominations

Dennis Sheedy Mansion, 1115-1121 Grant Street, Denver, Colorado

First Presbyterian Church, 407 Walnut Street, Leavenworth, Kansas

Nathaniel H. Burt House, 400 Fifth Avenue, Leavenworth, Kansas

Nazareth Convent and Academy, 13th and Washington, Concordia, Kansas

Leavenworth County Courthouse, 300 Walnut Street, Leavenworth, Kansas

Arch Street Historic District, roughly bounded by Arch, Pine, S. Second, and S. Third Streets, Leavenworth, Kansas

Leavenworth Downtown Historic District, north side of Cherokee Street 416-700; Delaware Street 325-601; South Fifth Street 100-220; Shawnee Street 400-609, Leavenworth, Kansas

North Broadway Historic District, along North Broadway between Seneca and Ottawa Streets, Leavenworth, Kansas

North Esplanade Historic District, 203-515 North Esplanade, Leavenworth, Kansas

South Esplanade Historic District, roughly bounded by Arch, Olive, and S. Second Streets and Railroad, Leavenworth, Kansas

Third Avenue Historic District, roughly bounded by 2nd and 4th Avenues and Congress and Middle Streets, Leavenworth, Kansas

Union Park Historic District, roughly bounded by Chestnut, Congress, S. 6th and W. 7th Streets, Leavenworth, Kansas

Newspapers

Kansas City Star, "Kansas's Oldest High School to Graduate Largest Class," 24 May 1938.

Kansas City Star, "Into New County Jail," 17 December 1939.

Leavenworth Weekly Times, "Building Boom in Leavenworth," 23 March 1905.

Leavenworth Daily Times, "No Gingerbread about the Court House, Says Short," 17 August 1911.

Leavenworth Times, "Who's Who in Leavenworth: William P. Feth," 12 July 1942.

Leavenworth Times, "Mrs. Feth Was a Life Resident Here," 1943.

Leavenworth Times, "William Feth Was Retired Architect Here," 6 February 1959.

Leavenworth Times, "Mickey Feth Winds Up His Work at Fort," 1963.

Leavenworth Times, "Area Deaths: Myron Feth," 27 September 1976.

Leavenworth Times "75th Anniversary Issue," 6 March 1932.

Leavenworth Times "To Lay the Corner Stone Next Sunday," 5 April 1903, p. 4, col. 2.

Leavenworth Times "Corner Stone of the Memorial Home Laid," 14 April 1903, p. 6, col. 3.

Leavenworth Times, "Small Memorial Home Now Stands Completed," 6 March 1904, p. 4, col. 1.

Leavenworth Times, "William Small Memorial Home Will Observe Golden Anniversary," 31 May 1953.

Leavenworth Times, "The Evangelical Lutheran Church Dedicated Today," 10 December 1911, p. 3, col. 1.

Leavenworth Times, "Hold Ceremony for Dedication of New Church," 17 May 1926, p. 8, col. 1.

Leavenworth Times, "Crowd of 2,000 at Dedication Jail Building," 18 December 1939, p. 4, col. 3.

Other

Leavenworth City Directories

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